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The BDRP conference shall proceed informally. Rules of evidence shall not apply. There shall be no formal examination or cross-examination of witnesses. Where necessary, the Resolution Advocate may conduct continued BDRP conferences after the initial session. As appropriate, the Resolution Advocate may:

- (a)** Permit each party, through counsel or otherwise, to make an oral presentation of its position;
- (b)** Help the parties identify areas of agreement and, where feasible, formulate stipulations;
- (c)** Assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the parties' contentions and evidence, and explain as carefully as possible the reasoning of the Resolution Advocate that supports these assessments;
- (d)** Assist the parties in settling the dispute;
- (e)** Estimate, where feasible, the likelihood of liability and the dollar range of damages;
- (f)** Help the parties devise a plan for sharing the important information and/or conducting the key discovery that will equip them as expeditiously as possible to participate in meaningful settlement discussions or to posture the case for disposition by other means; and
- (g)** Determine whether some form of follow-up to the conference would contribute to the case development process or to settlement.

Source URL (modified on 02/17/2015 - 3:11pm):

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